

# A new variety of *Arundinella setosa* Trin. from India<sup>1</sup>

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(With a plate)

*Arundinella setosa* Trin. var. **nilagiriana** var. nov.

Accedit ad *Arundinella setosam* Trin. var. *lanigeram* Fischer a quo tamen differt glumis hirsutis.

Holotypus *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A et isotypi *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B—F a G. V. Subbarao et G. R. Kumari die 11-ix-1970, paratypi vero *Subbarao* 40477A-J a G. V. Subbarao die 25-iii-1972 propinquus Koilbetta (alt. s.n. 1850 m) ad Ebanad in dist. Nilgiri, in Tamil Nadu, lecti sunt. Typus (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A) in herbario Centrali nationali, ad Calcuttam (CAL), isotypi (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B-F) et paratypi autem (*Subbarao* 40477 A-J) in herbario regionis australis Bot. Surv. India ad Coimbatore (MH) positi sunt.

*Arundinella setosa* Trin var. **nilagiriana** var. nov. (Poaceae—  
Arundinelleae)

A perennial grass with whitish woolly base, culms up to 30 cm, slender, terete, smooth, almost glabrous,  $\pm$  striate, erect; nodes glabrous. Leaf blades narrow, linear, tapering to a point, striate, 7.5-9  $\times$  0.2-0.4 cm, hirsute on both sides with tubercle based hairs, ciliate on margins with similar hairs; sheaths clasping the culms, striate, hirsute as leaf blades; ligule very thin, membranous, hairy with long white silky hairs. Inflorescence an erect panicle, 8-12 cm long; axis terete, striate, scabrid; branches 3-6 cm, alternate, distant; pedicels often in pairs, one long-one short, dilated below the spikelet, scaberulous and always with long bristles near the tip. Spikelets 5-7 mm long, gaping. Lower glume 5-6.5 mm long, dark purple in colour, ovate-acuminate, shortly aristate, firm, 3-nerved, nerves anastomosing at the tip, bristly with tubercle based colourless hairs; upper glume 5.5-7 mm long, light yellow, membranous, ovate-cuminate, the upper one third forming a narrow beak clasping the awn, 5 nerved, nerves anastomosing at the tip, pubescent.

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Lower floret ♂; lemma 3-4 mm long, membranous, rounded on the back, oblong-obtuse, keeled, scaberulous without in the upper half; palea elliptic-obtuse, a little shorter narrower and thinner than the lemma, rather flat; stamens 3; anthers 1.5 mm long. Upper floret usually ♀, rarely ♂; lemma 2-2.5 mm long with a hairy callous, shining, scabrid without, lanceolate with a stout twisted awn at the apex in between two colourless scabrid setae; palea almost of the same size and texture; awn up to 7-8 mm long, geniculate, scabrid; column 3 mm long, chestnut brown; stamens 3; anthers 2 mm long; ovary smooth, 1 mm long; styles 2-2.5 mm long; stigmas plumose, 1.5 mm long. Caryopsis not seen.

This taxon is allied to *Arundinella setosa* Trin. var. *lanifera* Fisch. but differs from it in having hirsute glumes.

The holotype *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A and isotypes *Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B-F and paratypes *Subbarao* 40477 A-J were collected respectively by G. V. Subbarao and G. R. Kumari on 11-ix-1970 and by G. V. Subbarao on 25-iii-1972 near Koilbetta (1850 m alt.) at Ebanad in Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu. The type (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 A) has been deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta (CAL), the isotypes (*Subbarao et Kumari* 19795 B-F) and paratypes (*Subbarao* 40477 A-J) have been deposited in the Regional Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore (MH).

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